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PROGRAM Viewpoint

STATION WASH-FM

DATE March 25, 1964 11:15 P.M.

CITY Washington, D.C.

CPYRGHT

MR. JAMES DONOVAN, GUEST

CASPER CITRON: "...We'll be talking with Mr. Donovan about his book which has just been published...called 'The Case of Colonel Abel, Strangers on a Bridge.'

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"James B. Donovan, welcome to the program. I spent the last two nights after the program, reading your book, and needless to say, I didn't get much sleep. The Abel case is one that we all followed in the headlines, but few of us got into the thing to the depth that we are able to through your book. I don't think that anyone can have a more fascinating three or four years, or a harder three or four years, than the time that you spent from the day your name was suggested as the defense counsel for Colonel Abel, until the final parting on the bridge. Actually I was amazed at the very high level of the relationship that you had with your client, and the way that he seemed pretty much to level with you, all around through those years. When you look back on it, how does that strike you today? Would you have thought it was possible to have this kind of a relationship, particularly, I think you were a Naval Intelligence Reserve all the while?"

DONOVAN: "Well, that's true, but on the other hand, as you know, and I tried to indicate this in the foreword, he never told me any information that was unnecessary for his defense, and never told me anything really that could be used against him, or against those who sent him. It was a very candid relationship, as you say, in many respects, but yet it was characterized I'd say, by a degree of restraint, to the extent that he knew that I was writing this book, that I had planned to do it, and he approved it, and said that since some books undoubtedly would be written on the entire matter, he would far prefer to have me do it than to have some -- I think he called them, a yellow hope prose man -- sensationalize it and perhaps say things that would reflect on him, or on his country.

"So I would say that it was a relationship of candor, but also marked with restraint on both sides."

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